

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NEW CAPITAL: SITE SELECTION AND CONTRACTS IN JANUARY?

ALSO FOR AID REIMBURSABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

REF: (A) LAGOS 11245; (B) STATE 233198; (C) LAGOS 10733

SUMMARY: DESPITE DATA COLLECTION SETBACK, NEW CAPITAL MASTER PLANNERS WILL MAINTAIN SCHEDULE AND PRESENT SITE RECOMMENDATIONS IN JANUARY, ENABLING CDA TO COMMISSION POSSIBLY DOLS 750 MILLION IN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS FOR AIRPORT, RAODS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, ACCORDING UNOFFICIAL REPORTS FROM INFORMED SOURCES. BUCEN DATA PROCESSING REPORTEDLY DEFERRED AND MAY BE CANCELLED. TOP CDA OFFICIALS STILL PLANS WASHINGTON VISIT WITHIN NEXT THREE WEEKS BUT NO OFFICIAL WORD AS YET. DURING THAT VISIT USG SHOULD TAKE OPPORTUNITY PROMOTE US DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND COMMERCIAL INTEREST. END SUMMARY.

1. IN FIVE-HOUR MEETING OCTOBER 6 REQUESTED BY THE AMERICAN MASTER PLANNING FIRM OF INTERNATIONAL PLANNING ASSOCIATES (PA) TO DISCUSS DATA DEFICIENCIES, BOARD OF FEDERAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) PERSUADED IPA TO PROCEED WITHOUT FULL DATA AND DEFERRED UNTIL AT LEAST NOVEMBER 1 A DECISION ON
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WHETHER TO ASK U.S. CENSUS BUREAU (BUCEN) TO PROCESS DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY DATA (REFS A AND B). MEETING REQUESTED BECAUSE CDA HAD FAILED TO PROVIDE BASIC DATA REQUIRED OF IT UNDER PLANNING CONTRACT. IPA REPORTEDLY WANTED ECONOGY/SOILS STUDY, HYDROLGOIC STUDY AND DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY TO OBTAIN DETAILED DATA BUT BOARD SUCCESSFULLY ARGUED THAT STUDIES WOULD DELAY TIMETABLE AND EXCEED BUDGET. IN ECOLOGY/SOILS AREA, IPA WILL MAKE DO WITH

WHAT SOUNDS LIKE TO A FAIRLY SUPERFICIAL STUDY PRESENTED AT BOARD MEETING BY PROF. AKIN MABOGUNJE, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT, WHICH CONTAINS SOME BUT NOT ALL OF DATA PLANNERS NEED. IN HYDROLOGY, IPA SETTLED FOR SEVERAL HOURS CONSULTATION WITH U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS) RATHER THAN ANOTHER STUDY. ACCORDING ONE MEETING PARTICIPANT, USGS PROBABLY WILL NOT BE ASKED TO DO FURTHER FORMAL STUDIES BUT ANOTHER SAYS DECISION ON THIS MERELY DEFERRED UNTIL NEXT YEAR. BOTH AGREE THAT DECISION ON CONSENSUS BUREAU (BUCEN) PROCESSING OF DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY DATA DEFERRED UNTIL NOVEMBER 1. NIGERIAN CENSUS BUREAU HAS UNTIL THEN TO DEMONSTRATE WHETHER IT CAN PROCESS DATA. IF NOT, BUCEN WILL BE ASKED. COMMENT: THIS IS WORST POSSIBLE SOLUTION AS IT MAY TRANSFER RESPONSIBILITY FOR DELINQUENCY TO BUCEN.

2. IPA DISAPPOINTED BUT PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT DATA DEFICIENCIES, SAYING IT HAS ENOUGH TO DO PROFESSIONAL BUT NOT IDEAL JOB. IT WILL QUALIFY FINDINGS AS THE BEST IT CAN DO WITH SUCH DATA.

HOPE IS THAT AFTER INITIAL PHASE COMPLETED AND PROGRESS DEMONSTRATED TIME AND BUDGET PRESSURES WILL EASE ENOUGH TO PERMIT COLLECTION OF DETAILED DATA.

3. IN JANUARY IPA IS SCHEDULE TO SUBMIT EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL CAPITAL CITY SITES WITHIN TERRITORY. AFTER CHOOSING FINAL SITE, ACCORDING INFORMED SOURCES, CDA IS TO AWARD CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE, ROADS AND AIRPORT. SOURCES DO NOT HAVE FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON THIS BUT BELIEVE CONTRACTS WILL UTILIZE ENTIRE 500 MILLION NAIRA (DOLS 750 MILLION) EAR-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MARKED FOR NEW CAPITAL THROUGH 1980 IN REVISED DEVELOPMENT PLAN. SOURCES DO NOT KNOW HOW POTENTIAL CONTRACTORS WILL PREQUALIFY NOR HOW BIDS WILL BE INVITED BUT ONE SOURCE SAYS TENDERS WILL BE SELECTIVE AND THE VARIOUS FMG MINISTRIES WILL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROJECTS IN THEIR NORMAL JURISDICTIONS (WORKS FOR ROADS, CIVAIR FOR AIRPORT, ETC.). (COMMENT: THIS APPROACH IS PLAUSIBLE AS CDA STILL LACKS THE STAFF TO HANDLE PROJECTS OF THIS MAGNITUDE.) ACCORDING ONE SOURCE, AIRPORT CONSULTANCY ROLE ALREADY GIVEN TO DUTCH FIRM OF NETHERLANDS AIRPORT CONSULTANTS (NACO), WHICH IS CONSULTANT FOR EXISTING FMG PROGRAM FOR CONSTRUCTION OR EXPANSION OF 16 AIRPORTS.

4. SOURCES ALSO REPORT THAT THE THREE TOP CDA OFFICIALS WILL VISIT WASHINGTON AS INDICATED (REFTEL C) IN LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER. THEY ARE CHAIRMAN M. AJOSE-ADEQOGUM, NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY I. AKADE AND NEW DIRECTOR FOR ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING, DENNIS BROWN, A BRITON FORMERLY WITH HAMEERSMITH PLANNING AUTHORITY. IN ADDITION PURPOSES LISTED REF C, VISIT ALLEGEDLY INTENDED LOCATE SOURCES PREFABRICATED HOUSING FOR CONSTRUCTION BASE CAMP TO BE BUILT AT ABUJA. (ORIGINAL PLAN TO SITE BASE CAMP WITHIN TERRITORY AS FIRST PERMANENT CAPITAL OF IBADAN, WAS FIRED AFTER PROPOSING DOLS 82 MILLION CAMP).

PRESUMABLY WE WILL SOON RECEIVE OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF VISIT AND ITS PURPOSES.

5. ONE ALREADY STATED PURPOSE OF WASHINGTON VISIT IS UNSPECIFIED STAFFING ASSISTANCE FROM ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION, WHOSE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHARLES CONRAD, RECENTLY SENT BOOK ON HISTORY OF WASHINGTON PLANNING TO NEW CDA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AKADE. IF STAFFING ARISES, WE RECOMMEND CAREFUL DEFINITION OF JOBS AND CONDITIONS. ACCORDING RELIABLE GOSSIP, DENNIS BROWN, HIRED BY FORMER EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EBONG IN JULY TO BE CDA'S DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING, FOUND HIMSELF DEMOTED UPON ARRIVAL HERE OCTOBER 1 WITH FAMILY TO BEGIN WORK. CHAIRMAN HAD CREATED ANOTHER LAYER OF OFFICIALS OVER BROWN WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE, CAUSING TERRIFIC ROW WHICH HAS PROGRESSED TO SEALING BROWN'S OFFICE OFF FROM CDA'S FILES
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AREA. BROWN REPORTEDLY HAD CUT ALL TIES TO COM HERE.

6. COMMENT: BOARD MEETING MARKED THE END OF EBONG ERA AND RESUMPTION OF COMMAND BY CDA CHAIRMAN AND BOARD FOLLOWING WHAT SOUNDS LIKE RATHER BITTER DEPARTURE OF EBONG. TO HIS ADMIRERS, EBONG WAS THOROUGH AND HIGHLY COMPETENT ADMINISTRATOR WHO WOULD HAVE BUILT FIRST-CLASS CAPITAL WITHOUT PLAYING POLITICS. HIS CRITICS, WHO SEEM TO INCLUDE CDA CHAIRMAN AND MUCH OF BOARD, EVIDENTLY CONSIDERED HIM IMPRACTICAL IDEALIST WHO, WITH AMERICANS, WASTED TOO MUCH TIME ON STUDIES. (HEAD OF STATE IS RUMORED TO HAVE SHARED CRITICS' IMPATIENCE TO SOME EXTENT.) ONE OBSERVER REMARKED THAT WITH NEW LOWER STANDARDS CDA DOES NOT NEED HIGH QUALITY PLANNERS LIKE IPA. DENNIS BROWN IS VICTIM OF CHANGE AND IPA FEELS ITSELF IN DELICATE POSITION. FOREGOING THEREFORE SHOULD BE HELD CLOSELY. USG SHOULD CONTINUE BUSINESS AS USUAL.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: BUCEN SHOULD INFORMALLY AND DISCREETLY CHECK DATA PROCESSING SITUATION WITH IPA OFFICIAL STEPHEN LOCKWOOD, WHO ATTENDED BOARD MEETING AND RETURNED TO WASHINGTON. AID AND WHOEVER IN USG IS FOLLOWING COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES IN NEW CAPITAL PROJECT SHOULD PREPARE TO ACQUAINT CDA VISITORS WITH AMERICAN CAPABILITIES FOR PROJECT'S NEXT PHASE.
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